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about one hundred inhabitants. This island is on the northern end of a small detached Atoll, extending fifteen miles S., and thirty-two W., or to latitude $6^{\circ} 12' 13''$ N.; which, having no native name, I have called "Malcolm's Atoll," in honour of Sir Charles Malcolm, under whose orders, as Superintendent of the Indian navy, my survey has been planned and commenced. The natives of this island are under the authority of Zilla-doue-Madoué Atoll. Malcolm's Atoll is dangerous for ships coming from the westward, presenting one unbroken barrier reef, of fifteen miles on the west side, with only three boats' channels on the east side. There are no soundings either near it. It is about three miles broad; the inside is full of coral knobs, and the south end is distant twenty-four miles from the nearest part of Milla-doue-Madoué, without soundings between them."

VI.—*Account of the Ragery Hills, near Madras.* By Colonel Monteith, E.I.C. Eng. Communicated by Thomas Murdoch, Esq., F.R.S.

THE Ragery Hills are a cluster situated to the N.N.W. of Madras, and distant from fifty to seventy miles. Although thus constantly before our eyes, and presenting many fine table-lands, there is scarcely a person at Madras who has ever visited them; and although many can describe the Neilgherries, and even the Himalayas, I have met with but one (Colonel Cullen) who has ever visited these hills. On the 23d of January, therefore, I left Madras, with a palankeen and two riding-horses, as I much doubted the practicability of the roads even for an Indian mode of conveyance. Though bad, however, they did not prove worse than the usual ones of the country, and were passable for bullock-carts as far as Periapatam, a considerable village, where I was surprised to find a large Roman Catholic church, and in the vicinity several villages of Christians. There is no resident priest: but a great festival is annually held here in June, at which nearly all the Catholics of the country assemble, even as far as from Madras.

From Periapatam the roads were hardly practicable even for country carts of the smallest description, although the surface was generally level, hard, and obstructed only by thick, thorny bushes, which might easily be cleared, and the soil cultivated.

I halted for the night at Chittavadoo, once a considerable place, with a stone fort, still in good repair. The country is diversified with low wooded hills, tanks, and some rice-fields, the crops in which were now dry and ready to cut. This cultivated tract, however, bears but a small proportion to the waste and wooded lands.

At fifteen miles we reached a small village called Cumbacum, which either gives a name to the hill fort, or receives one from it. This village was too poor to furnish provisions for even my small party, so we proceeded three miles farther to Kullawood, a more respectable village than any that we had hitherto seen, with a few shops and some good houses. It is subject to the Raja of Calistree, and about three miles from the foot of the mountains.

About seven o'clock the following morning, the guides, huntsmen, &c. were ready to proceed with me to the hill fort. At three miles we reached the foot of the hills, where we were obliged to dismount. There had once been a road for carts, but no traces of it were now to be found; so steep was the hill, that the rain had washed it away. We ascended a broken and stony path for about a mile, when we turned into the thickest part of the wood, to see, as I was told, a very old gun, which had belonged to the Raja, when, as the guide expressed himself, "he was a man." It proved, however, to be an English six-pounder, not older, probably, than the guide himself; and had most likely been employed to dislodge the Mahomedans from the fort after the Raja had ceased to be "a man."

At the second mile we entered the outer gate, in a wall of dry stones, but of large dimensions. The ascent was very difficult for one mile farther, when we arrived at the upper-port wall, of little consequence. If there had been no trees or bushes, the ascent would have been almost impracticable. Here we found a fine table-land, of four miles in length by two in breadth; with a stream of water, the ruins of a garden, palace, and some magazines — all, however, overgrown with wood. The height was about eighteen hundred feet, and the climate ten degrees cooler than the plain. The thermometer was only 65° in the air at eleven o'clock; and 62° in the water in a deep, sheltered ravine. We cannot implicitly trust to report which represents these hills as healthy; but if this be correct, what an excellent retreat during the hot weather, as the scorching winds are said never to blow here. I think that I am the fourth European who has ever been on these hills, although they are at such a trifling distance from Madras; and there is even water-carriage to within ten miles of their base by the Pullicat Lake.

VII.—*Arctic Land Expedition.*

THE return of this expedition has thrown a new and extended light over the geography of the north-eastern extremity of America; into the particulars of which, however, we do not propose at present to enter, believing that they will shortly receive more justice